

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

WALLACE SPOKE FOR FARMERS

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace spoke for fully a third of our entire population when he said that the farmers of the country are weary of labor bickerings. It is the farmers who have been hit the hardest in the process of deflation, declared Mr. Wallace. He has prepared statistics showing that the purchasing power of the railway employee in 1921 was 51 per cent greater than in 1913, of the coal miner 30 per cent greater, of the farm laborer 4 per cent less, and of the farmer himself from 25 to 45 per cent less. In spite of the burden that the farmers have had to bear, they have endeavored to get relief solely by lawful means. They have appealed to the executive departments at Washington, to Congress, and to every other means that showed promise of aid. But while their efforts have not met with all the success they expected, the farmers have refrained from striking or creating disorder.

"They have kept on producing," Secretary Wallace reminds us, "and in the face of extraordinarily low prices have this year grown one of the largest crops in our entire history. The farmer believes in law and order; he believes in government; working hard and producing efficiently. If other groups would do as the farmer has done, our economic troubles would soon be over. Prices would soon be adjusted to their normal relationship. There would be work for everybody and at just wages.

"But there are too many people who seem to be thinking only of themselves and how they can profit at the expense of the community at large and especially at the expense of the farmer. The farmer is sick and tired of this sort of business. He is disgusted with these recurring disputes between capital and labor, especially as connected with the essential industries. He sees no reason why such disputes can not and should not be settled in an orderly and lawful way and without the interruptions of service which cost him so dearly.

"The farmer recognizes his obligation to produce food, for people must eat to live. He demands that both the owners of the coal mines and the coal miners recognize their equal obligation to produce coal, and he demands that the management of the railroads and the railroad workmen recognize also their equal obligation to keep trains moving, for unless the food he produces is moved promptly to market the people will starve.

"If the various groups in this country are determined to prey upon one another and abandon law and order for strong-arm methods, the farmer can take care of himself. He can reduce his production to his own needs. He can follow the example of some others and refuse to sell what he produced. But he does not believe in that sort of thing. He knows that such a policy would bring about in this great republic exactly the same sort of conditions that exist in Russia."

PRIMARY ELECTION

Next Tuesday, Sept. 12, is primary election day, one of the most important events in political life, and yet its significance and importance is very little appreciated if we are to judge by the small number of people who turn out to vote on primary election day.

The people of this country have no greater privilege than the right of franchise. It is the one thing that makes us all equal, for every one has the same right and all are counted but once. We are prone to complain when things do not go to suit our ideas, and it has become a favorite pastime with many of us to complain about the politicians and the management of government affairs in nation, state, county and city. We growl about everything that is being done and say, "Why doesn't the government do this, that, or the other thing." But we fail to take in the fact that each one of us is an integral part of the government, each one of us has been guaranteed the right of franchise, and it is our duty to exercise that right. We have little right to complain if we do not go to the polls and express our choice of officers.

It is a well recognized fact in the State of Michigan that a nomination practically assures the election, and that makes it all the more important that we should attend the primaries and make the right kind of choice for nomination.

Next Tuesday there will be nominated a candidate for U. S. Senator, a Congressman, a governor, a representative in the State legislature, a State senator, and various county officers. These men will represent us and do our official business for the next two years. The importance of these offices ought to be apparent to the dullest mind.

In the past, less than twenty per cent of the voters have turned out to the primaries and the other eighty per cent of us have growled about the way our affairs are conducted. On primary election day every citizen who is able to do so should go to the polls and vote. Let's make the primary amount to something this year. It is not only a great privilege but a solemn duty.

Periodically some one arises and remarks that "no man understands the heart of a woman."

Of course not. Men are not supposed to understand them. The feminine heart is peculiarly the property of woman, to conceal in any manner she thinks best.

From infancy men are taught to reverence and respect womanhood, and that respect is enhanced by the mystery which surrounds her heart.

That which is discernable to everyone soon becomes common. Womanhood was never intended to be such.

Soon the fall months will be upon us and the rains will be raising merry hordes with our streets and thoroughfares. Mud will be as cheap as German marks or Russian rubles.

It is not too late to make some necessary street improvements on bad side streets. The expense would not be great, and the convenience would be far in excess of the cost. The wise man never leaves until tomorrow the things that can be done today for less money.

With Our State Contemporaries

THE SAME OLD ERROR!

Frank Farrington, President of the Illinois Mine Workers, is forgetting! And he errs when he forgets! On August 30, when an Illinois Grand Jury belatedly returns an indictment for murder in connection with the Herrin atrocities, Farrington rushes into print with a pledge of "every means at Union command" to help "defend any and all members who may be indicted in connection with the Herrin trouble." He says he is sure that "forces have combined to convict our members."

On June 25, when the horror of Herrin butchery lay intimately upon the American conscience, Farrington issued a splendid "law and order" appeal to his followers. "Acts of disorder and violence only stir the public against us," said he, "and make bitter enemies for us in places where we must have strong friends. Acts of destruction may appease inflamed and angered minds, but cannot win any permanent success, and if victory depends on violence our cause is hopelessly lost."

There is a very definite connection between June 25 and August 30; and the same compulsion which faced Farrington then, continues to face him now. The hour for criminal retribution is not one whit less important than was the hour when crime occurred. The responsibility for impressive justice increases, if anything, with the delay in its administration.

We would expect Farrington to say that his organization will insist that any of its indicted members gets a fair trial. The vindication of law does not require the railroadings of innocent martyrs for the mere purpose of an effective judicial spectacle. We would expect Farrington to say he will see that any indicted members of the Union will be guaranteed adequate defense to the end that justice shall not miscarry. On June 25, he should be equally positive in his corollary declaration that if the crime of murder—and his Herrin business was murder of the most heinous sort—was proved against any of his misguided followers, the Miners' Union joins in the hope and the demand that the extreme penalty of outraged law will fall unflinchingly where it deserves.

He should say on August 30, exactly as he said on June 25, that "acts of destruction" are a menace to the union as well as to the Union. No omission of reiterated condemnation of "acts of disorder and violence" should permit other "inflamed and angered minds"—in this or any other industrial rebellion—to believe that unionism really condones lawlessness and will "exhaust every means at its command" to immunize those who are guilty of it.

No legitimate comradery can demand this class immunity. The law is the law. The fact that a defendant may be a Baptist or an Episcopalian or a Congregationalist, does not license all of his sect to prejudice him innocent, and to presume that he would not be facing the judgment bar except as some sort of a wicked "conspiracy" had "combined" in his criminal pursuit. So, too, with Labor Unions. They have erred before in excessive zeal for those of their number called to court accounting for their acts. The McNamara dynamiters in Los Angeles were an excellent and typical example. The Herrin massacre will be the supreme example of all—if the latest Farrington proclamation is a prophecy of the policy that is to be pursued.

"We will defend the innocent to the last ounce of our resources—and we will insist upon a presumption of innocence until proofs convince a jury to the contrary! That would be legitimate and healthy and wholly American. But why neglect to add the all important postscript so essential to unionism 'in places where it must have strong friends'? Why omit the essential alternative? 'We join in the Nation's resolution against this awful Herrin atrocity; we join in the Nation's demand that it be produced to the source of responsibility; and when guilt is fixed, according to law, we join in the Nation's demand for the exaction of full penalty—regardless of whether that penalty falls upon a union miner, a non-union strike-breaker, or a mine operator!'"—Grand Rapids Herald.

DIRT OR HARD ROADS

Five of us were lined up on the nearly impassable road a few miles west of Laclede, Linn County, last month. One of us was stuck in the deeply rutted mudhole, the others just waiting to get stuck when our turn came. One car from California, one from South Dakota, one from Illinois, one from Nebraska and mine bearing the Missouri tag. When I drove up the assembly mud-spattered visitors hailed me joyfully. "Ah, a Missourian," said they. "Let's leave him in the mudhole, he deserves it."

"How on earth do you farmers travel such d—n roads?" asked the Californian. "We don't," answered the boy with the "pulling out" team. "We wait for 'em to dry up. And in that question and answer you have the whole story of hard roads and mud roads. Dry and dragged the dirt road is incomparably the best. But take a dirt road no matter how well cared for after a few hours of heavy rain and motor cars will cut it to pieces, rutting the low ground so deeply that the drag cannot remedy it for days. There is one and only one way to justify spending the 60 million dollar bond issue for improvement and upkeep: Pass a law pro-

hibiting the use of any motor vehicles heavier than a flivver, banish the trucks and the tourists and make driving in the mud punishable by heavy fine. Do that and dirt roads are all we need.

Advocates of dirt roads shout loudly about not caring a whoop for the tourist visitor, that we want to spend the money to benefit ourselves. Forgetting the courteous treatment due a guest, how, I rise to inquire, can we prevent them from traveling our highways? In my drive through twenty-three counties I saw cars from as many states. The traveler cannot stop for mud, he must keep going. Consequently while cursing the country he ruins the road. The farmer waits until the road dries, losing the valuable time that he might put in hauling to market while his fields are too wet for work, then must wallow through rutted roads for miles. Never again can the dirt road be a good road for year 'round use and I defy any dirt road advocate to prove otherwise. By John P. Case, Editor, The Missouri Ruralist.

Some Sense and Nonsense

"Pete" Did It

Last Friday while the congressional candidates were in the city, a man dropped into the Wright House and walking to the cigar case, asked Pete for a smoke. Noticing a Lindquist card in the case the said man asked Pete how he would run in this vicinity. Pete rendered his honest opinion and said, "He'll have to hurry to catch on the tail end." The questioner, Pete soon discovered, was none other than our friend the pure fabric man from Greenville.

Some of the disappointed ones next week will probably come to the conclusion that there are an awful bunch of liars in the county.

Reports in newspapers are to the effect that a certain man died while hoeing in his garden. Here's where we swear off.

A Bit Previous Perhaps

Francis O. Lindquist announced to a Saginaw newspaper in an interview that the congressional race is between himself and Bird J. Vincent. "I will carry every county in the district except Saginaw," is a statement attributed to him. The Greenville pure fabric artist also said, "I do not believe either Mr. Smith or Mr. Lash will cut much figure." Francis O. may be surprised at the figure that he will cut—it may be a sorry one.

Regarding the congressional race Saginaw people say it will be a Bird.

Elsewhere many say Smith.

Lindquist says he is it, and—

Way Down Here We'll Find When LASH Up. Them Count They

Governor's Statement

To the People of the State of Michigan:

This is in answer to the misleading and inaccurate statements being made regarding the state's finances and expenditures during my term as Governor. Briefly, I am submitting for your consideration a short, concise statement, based on official data and figures, open to public inspection.

The very bad and wholly unnecessary condition of our State finances which existed prior to 1921 has been largely corrected. The deficit of six million dollars, which the present administration inherited, has been wiped out and at present we have a very substantial surplus in the treasury. Operating and administrative costs for departments and institutions were reduced during the fiscal year of 1921 by \$1,839,617.63 under what they were in 1920. Your State Tax for 1922 will be \$3,140,489.85 less than it was in 1921 and the lowest since 1918. These results have been brought about by the application of sound business methods to State affairs and the elimination of the old brand of political management. Many of your charitable, penal and correction institutions were found to be in a deplorable condition and these things have been remedied. We are meeting their every requirement and so rehabilitating them that they will function in the manner and for the purposes for which they were organized. The simplification of governmental machinery has made it possible to cut out waste and extravagance and place our state activities on the same plane of efficiency and usefulness as those of privately owned enterprises. Beyond all this and what is equally important, your government in all its branches has been kept free from graft and corruption; free from control by interests of any sort, political or otherwise; free from the domination of those who would exploit it for and in their own interests.

These things should mean much to us as citizens of a great Commonwealth.

ALEX. J. GROESBECK.

Phool Philosophy BY Old Cy Collegy

Hot air dealers never go bankrupt.

The sea of matrimony is dotted with leaky boats.

The pitfalls of life never bother those who hop over them.

People never amount to anything without doing something.

The unruly tongue is best curbed by keeping the mouth shut.

Between ragtime and radio comes the toll that pays for both.

Wealth constitutes riches only where there is a mind to enjoy it.

We understand now why charity begins at home in so many cases. First contributions are often the smallest.

It is difficult to vindicate one person without making a liar or a fool out of another.

There's a lot of enjoyment on the farm for the fellow who doesn't have to work it.

Ancestry has much for which to be thankful. It is not here to see the finish of what it commenced.

After all, we may have to go to war again to settle the difficulties of peace.

There still remains one last resort in our efforts to discourage crime. Punish the criminals.

The world is at peace with everything but itself.

It is not to be wondered at that people object to sitting on the modern jury. The suspicion of bribery doesn't care who it hits.

The child that is born with a silver spoon in its mouth never knows what a lot of fun it could have with a pewter one.

Truth is best understood by those who have experienced its value.

Don't go around with a chip on your shoulder unless it is worth knocking off.

It's useless to put your best foot forward unless you make the other one keep up.

Kids like to play at being grown-ups, and grownups like to play at being kids. Somewhere between there is a happy medium, but we seldom know when we reach it.

The fellow who thinks he knows it all doesn't know how to think.

Keep your heart pure and your mind will keep itself busy.

Deeds and creeds sound much the same, except when put into practice.

The fellow who runs into debt often finds it difficult to even crawl out.

Record Directory

FOR READY REFERENCE

President and Congress
President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$100,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$200,000 in all. (Subject to change.)
Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa.
Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass., salary \$12,000. The 56 Senators and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$2,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,817 population.
Party Division in 67th Congress: House 201 Rep., 123 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 59 Rep., 37 Dem.
U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry.
Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet
Arranged in order of presidential succession:
Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-General, Ralph W. Cook, Ill.; Navy, Edwin Denby, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

The Supreme Court
Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$12,000. Associate Justices, salary \$11,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif. (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Rep.); Wm. H. Day, Ohio (Rep.); Will. Van Derveer, Wyo. (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn. (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio (Dem.).

Michigan Government
Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reed, salary \$3,000; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary \$2,500; State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary \$2,500; Auditor Gen., Oran B. Fuller, salary \$2,500; Attorney Gen., Meritt Wiley, salary \$5,000; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary \$4,000; State Highway Com., Frank P. Rogers, salary \$750.00; Senator of District, Aaron Amon, salary \$800.00; Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary \$800.00; Supreme Court Judges, salary \$7,000.00; Joseph R. Moore, Joseph H. Steele, Howard Weiss, Grant Fellows, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sharp.

County Officers
Circuit Judge, Edward Molinet, salary \$3,500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kress, salary \$2,400.00; Sheriff, A. T. Willett, salary, fees; Clerk, Bertha Case, salary \$1,500; Treas., Sidney Evey, salary \$1,500; Pros. Atty., Romaine Clark, salary \$2,000; Register of Deeds, Merle Heister, salary, fees; School Com., Howard Potter, salary \$1,600; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCutcheon, salary, fees; Drain Com., Eva Laycock, salary \$1,000; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government
Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary \$300.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Floyd Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Cresser, salary \$250.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$5,000.00; City Clerk, Clarence F. Black, salary \$1,800.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary \$1,800.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Bahke, salary \$1,200.00; Health Officer, Dr. C. F. Dubois, salary \$1,200.00; Chief of Police, James H. Campbell, salary \$1,750.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Seel, 3rd ward, Albert F. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$3.00 per day on actual time.

AJAX

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Supreme in Appearance, Mileage, and Non-Skid Security

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GINTHER & SONS, Ithaca

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AND you can be sure of getting ARCOLA with a radiator in each room. This Fall it may be different. Last Fall so many people wanted ARCOLA at the last minute that there weren't enough of these wonderful hot-water heating systems to go around. Our advice is to come now, while we have more time to do the work than we will have later on.

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The STRAND

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IN

"The Idle Rich"

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BUSTER KEATON

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"My Wife's Relations"

As soon as he met the family Buster said: "Of all my wife's relations, I love myself the best."

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A SCREAM!

A ROAR!

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"45 MINUTES FROM BROADWAY"

Clever lines and catchy music

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